

**Minutes for the  
Board of Lowell Light & Power's  
Regular Meeting – May 12, 2026**

**I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL:**

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Beachum at 6:00 p.m., and General Manager West called the roll.

**Present:** Perry Beachum, Tina Cadwallader, Daniel Crawford, and Craig Fonger

**Absent:** Andrew Schrauben

**Also Present:** General Manager Charlie West, City Council Liaison Jim Salzwedel, Distribution Manager Zac Walker, Generation Superintendent Casey Mier, and Financial Analyst Megan Mora

It was MOVED BY CRAWFORD, SUPPORTED BY CADWALLADER, to excuse Andrew Schrauben's absence.

Yea: 4      Nay: 0      Absent: 1      Motion Carried

**II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

It was MOVED BY CRAWFORD, SUPPORTED BY CADWALLADER, to approve the agenda as presented.

Yea: 4      Nay: 0      Absent: 1      Motion Carried

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

It was MOVED BY CRAWFORD, SUPPORTED BY FONGER, to approve the April 14, 2026, Regular Board Meeting Minutes.

Yea: 4      Nay: 0      Absent: 1      Motion Carried

It was MOVED BY CRAWFORD, SUPPORTED BY CADWALLADER, to approve the April 14, 2026, Regular Board Meeting Minutes Closed Session as presented.

Yea: 4      Nay: 0      Absent: 1      Motion Carried

**IV. SAFETY MOMENT:**

Walker presented a safety moment regarding downed powerlines.

**V. PUBLIC COMMENTS (for items not on the agenda):**

Beachum welcomed our newest employee, Paul, to the team.

**VI. ACTION ITEMS:**

**A. Revised FY 2027 Operating and Capital Budget:**

The board reviewed and discussed the revised Fiscal Year 2027 Operating and Capital Budget, noting changes from the draft budget. General Manager West provided a list of changes most significantly in revenue and power supply. Staff recommended to approve the FY 2027 Budget as presented.

It was MOVED BY CRAWFORD, SUPPORTED BY FONGER, to approve the revised FY 2027 Operating and Capital Budget as presented and send to City Council for final adoption.

Yea: 4            Nay: 0            Absent: 1            Motion Carried

**B. Employee Benefit Annual Approval:**

For non-union employee health insurance, The Pool allows the group to remain with Priority Health while improving the overall structure and value of the medical plans. From a financial standpoint, remaining with the current program results in an annual cost of \$203,476 (14% increase), while The Pool option totals \$171,786, generating over \$31,000 in annual savings. In addition to these upfront savings, The Pool is designed to provide greater long-term stability by better managing high-cost claims. Staff recommends moving forward with The Pool medical plans while maintaining the current dental, vision, and ancillary programs.

It was MOVED BY FONGER, SUPPORTED BY CRAWFORD, to approve the new healthcare benefits package plans presented by The Pool.

Yea: 4            Nay: 0            Absent: 1            Motion Carried

For dental insurance, Delta Dental issued a renewal quote that included a 2.9% increase. This equates to approximately \$381.84 annually. No plan changes are recommended.

It was MOVED BY FONGER, SUPPORTED BY CADWALLADER, to renew the Delta Dental plan with a 2.9% increase.

Yea: 4            Nay: 0            Absent: 1            Motion Carried

For voluntary vision insurance, Delta Vision supplied a renewal quote that included a 3.6% increase. The voluntary vision insurance is made available to each employee and their family at 100% employee cost. This represents a limited financial impact, and no plan changes are recommended.

It was MOVED BY CRAWFORD, SUPPORTED BY FONGER, to renew the optional Delta Vision plan with a 3.6% increase.

Yea: 4            Nay: 0            Absent: 1            Motion Carried

For Life/AD&D, STD, and LTD insurance, we are currently 1 year into a 2-year rate lock with One America, so no changes are being evaluated.

It was MOVED BY CRAWFORD, SUPPORTED BY FONGER, to move into the second-year rate lock with One America.

Yea: 4            Nay: 0            Absent: 1            Motion Carried

**C. West Michigan Health Insurance Pool Membership Resolution:**

In order to formally join the West Michigan Health Insurance Pool (WMHIP), the LL&P board must pass a resolution authorizing LL&P's membership in the West Michigan Health Insurance Pool for a minimum of three years. The resolution also designates a trustee and alternate trustee to serve on the board of directors and act on behalf of LL&P. Staff are proposing to designate Julie Stewart as the Trustee and Charlie West as the Alternate Trustee. Staff recommends to approve the resolution to join the West Michigan Health Insurance Pool.

It was MOVED BY FONGER, SUPPORTED BY CRAWFORD, to approve the resolution to join the West Michigan Health Insurance Pool with Julie Stewart as the Trustee and Charlie West as the Alternate Trustee.

Yea: 4            Nay: 0            Absent: 1            Motion Carried

**D. Capacity and Generation Expansion Discussion:**

Casey and Charlie led a detailed discussion with the board on capacity, LL&P's future capacity position, and the potential to solve part of our needs through an MPPA project that leverages behind the meter generation assets in member communities. Feedback was encouraged and appreciated from the board while no formal approval was needed at this time.

**VII. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

- A. **Performance Data:** West reported on the April 2026 data.
- B. **Monthly Outage Report:** Walker reported there was one outage in April 2026.
- C. **Income Statement:** West reported on the April 2026 Income Statement.
- D. **Capital Projects Report:** West reported on the April 2026 Capital Projects Report.
- E. **Distribution Report:** Walker provided written updates to the board on Distribution department progress.

- F. **Generation Report:** Mier provided written updates to the board on Generation department progress.
- G. **Office Report:** Mora provided written updates to the board on Office department progress.
- H. **Manager's Report:** West provided written updates to the Board on the following items:
  - MPPA/MMEA/APPA Update
  - Safety Update
  - Open Position
  - MPPA Stakeholder Meeting
  - Solar Interconnection Review
  - Tree Give-Away
  - DPW Director Interviews
  - Outside Engineer Meeting
  - Perry Beachum Day
  - Councilwoman Bartkus
  - Transmission Outage
  - Collective Bargaining Planning
  - Work Anniversaries
- I. **Monthly Pictures:** Staff provided photos to the board of events over the last month.
- J. **Schedule of Meetings:** May/June was presented.
- K. **Supplemental Information:** West provided supplemental information to the Board on the following items:
  - Sales and Cash & Investments Performance Data Charts
  - Benevolence Report
  - Full Income Statement
  - April Payables

VIII. **NEXT REGULAR LL&P BOARD MEETING:** Scheduled for Tuesday, June 9, 2026.

IX. **BOARD COMMENT:**

Fonger congratulated both Beachum on his proclamation and Sarah for completing her first year of work with LL&P and expressed appreciation for Tom still working with LL&P. Fonger expressed his regrets for not attending the Lineman Appreciation Dinner. Crawford also congratulated Sarah and Tom on their anniversaries and expressed thanks to Marty Chambers and everyone else involved with making the Lineman Appreciation Dinner such a success. Crawford also mentioned his high hopes for the insurance broker change and that it be well worth it to anyone that is impacted. Beachum mentioned attending the apprentice graduation for Jarred, to which Charlie and Zac are attending also. Beachum also expressed his excitement that Lowell could potentially be a major player with MPPA.

X. **ADJOURNMENT**

It was MOVED BY FONGER, SUPPORTED BY CRAWFORD to adjourn the Regular Board Meeting at 8:48 p.m.

Yea: 4

Nay: 0

Absent: 1

Motion Carried

*Perry Beachum*  
[Perry Beachum \(Jun 9, 2026 19:40:11 EDT\)](#)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson Beachum

06/09/26  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date






# May 12, 2026

Final Audit Report

2026-06-09

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